

Rhetorical Focus

Cause and Effect Organization

A cause and effect essay explains why certain actions, situations, and behaviors happen. The essay can start with an effect, such as success, and find its causes, which might be education or talent. Or the essay can begin with a cause and describe its effects.

Introduction

- The hook introduces the cause(s) or effect(s).
- Background information helps the reader understand the cause(s) or effect(s). It can give historical information.
- The thesis statement shows the relationship between the cause(s) and effect(s).

Body Paragraphs

- The topic sentence in each paragraph defines a specific cause or effect to support the thesis.
- All supporting details must relate to the topic sentence. These details can include explanations, examples, or facts.
- Body paragraphs are organized in order of importance, chronologically, or according to short-term or long-term effects.
- Each paragraph must use clear logic.

Conclusion

- The conclusion restates the cause(s) and effect(s) of the essay.
- It may evaluate or reflect on the ideas presented.
- It may give advice.

Exercise 3 Reading a student essay

Read the essay. What are the effects of a positive outlook?

Effects of a Positive Outlook on Our Lives

Happiness is a state of being that everyone wants to achieve. A positive outlook can help you be happy and change the outcome of your life. It can enrich your relationships, improve your health, and guide you through some of life's greatest challenges.

A positive outlook helps you find happiness in professional, social, and personal relationships. Having a positive attitude will help you find a good job and keep it. Colleagues enjoy working with someone who always looks at the bright side and avoids conflict. Friends will appreciate your energy and want to spend more time with you. A happy person makes everybody else happy. It is contagious. Happiness and a positive outlook on life can

also have a beneficial effect on personal relationships. As a consequence, any partnership will be a solid, strong, and happy relationship.

Having a positive outlook also makes a person healthy. In fact, medical science has proven that stress, which causes many of today's common illnesses such as high blood pressure, heart disease and cancer, can be avoided when people feel good about themselves. If

you have a good sense of humor and laugh a lot, a chemical substance called serotonin will be released into your blood stream, giving you an immediate feeling of well-being and tranquillity. It has also been found that the elderly recover faster from illness when they are cheerful. Being positive and happy is synonymous with health and longevity.

Finally, people with positive outlooks are stronger and capable of confronting difficult situations. They develop clear minds, which help them cope with life's challenges better than those individuals who are not at peace with themselves. Happy people's optimism creates the strength needed to find rational solutions to the many unexpected problems that life presents. This optimism also promotes self-esteem. For example, happier students are more likely to approach professors for help when they are having some trouble in their course work. In contrast, unhappy or less happy students may internalize their frustrations and be less likely to seek out help.

In conclusion, it is a good idea to have a positive outlook and recognize what makes us happy since it will bring us more harmony. Happiness will bring us strong relationships, good health, and the ability to face any obstacle. If we promise ourselves to laugh more and think positively, we will change our lives for the better.

Exercise 4 Analyzing the student essay

Examine the organization of the essay by answering the questions below. Then compare your answers with a partner.

1. Circle and label the hook.
2. Underline the background information.